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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/816,251

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Gregory J. Wolff

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EXAMINER

BELOUSOV, ANDREY

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2174

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/816,251

Applicant(s)

WOLFF ET AL.

Examiner

ANDREY BELOUSOV

Art Unit

2174

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 October 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-52 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-52 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-946)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SF/ICE)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

This action is in response to the amendment of October 17, 2007. Claims 1-52 are pending and have been considered below.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1, 9, 10, 15, 19, 24, 25, 29, 30, 31, 33, 34, 37, 38, 41, 44, 49, 50, and 52 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ballantyne, et al. (5,867,821.)

Claim 1, 19, 31, 38: Ballantyne discloses a method comprising:

- a. representing a first collection (e.g. patient record) of media objects (e.g. charts, data entry forms, medical forms) using a first sheet (e.g. touch panel; 10:23-27) having a first graphical content representing the media objects (10:10-27); wherein the first sheet is a cover sheet that provides access to the first collection of the media objects (9:54-59);
- b. creating a second collection of media objects from the first collection of media objects (entering information in the forms, notes, etc; 10:10-27); and
- c. re-marking the first sheet to include a second graphical content representing the second collection of media objects (updating patient's medical record; 10:10-27),

wherein the re-marked first sheet provides access to the second collection of the media objects (9:54-59.)

Claim 9, 24, 33: Ballantyne discloses the method defined in claim 1 further comprising accessing the first collection using a first identifier, wherein the first identifier comprises a machine-readable identifier (e.g. bar code; 13:57-59; 12:15-24.)

Claim 10, 25, 34, 41: Ballantyne discloses the method defined in claim 9 wherein the machine-readable identifier comprises a barcode (13:57-59.)

Claim 14: Ballantyne discloses the method defined in claim 1 wherein the first sheet comprises a medical information of a patient (10:10-27.)

Claim 15, 29, 30, 37, 44: Ballantyne discloses the method defined in claim 14 wherein the first collection of media objects comprises patient objects regarding a patient, and further wherein the second collection of media objects represents an updated version of the patient objects for the patient (10:10-27.)

Claim 49: Ballantyne discloses the method defined in claim 48 further comprising determining a difference between representations for the first and second collections; and erasing a portion of the sheet based on the difference between the representations of the first and second collections (updating patient's medical record; 10:10-27.)

Claim 50: Ballantyne discloses a method comprising: erasing a portion of the sheet having a representation of a collection of media objects, wherein the representation includes graphical context to represent the media objects; wherein the sheet is a cover sheet that provides access to the collection of the media objects (9:54-59); marking the portion of the sheet with updated information (Fig. 11D: 436.)

Claim 52: Ballantyne discloses the method defined in claim 50 further comprising scanning the portion of the sheet, prior to erasing, to obtain scanned information, and wherein the updated information is based on the scanned information (6:20-31; Fig. 11D.)

Claim 46 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Sellen et al. (2002/0052888.)

Claim 46: Sellen discloses a method comprising:

- a. scanning a portion of a document (Fig. 5: 86) to obtain first scanned data (Fig. 5: 90); storing the first scanned data in a memory (Fig. 5: 92);
- b. performing an erasing operation on the scanned portion of the document at the location of the portion (0036 – revising the document);
- c. scanning the erased portion of the document to obtain second scanned data (Fig. 5:84-94; 0035);

Art Unit: 2174

- d. determining whether the first and second scanned data are the same to indicate whether the document was erased (Fig. 5:52-62.)

2. Claim 47 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Geeslin (2002/0064113.)

Claim 47: Geeslin discloses a method comprising: detecting a writable mark when scanning a coversheet; wherein the coversheet includes a re-writable paper; preventing modification to the coversheet in response to detecting the writable mark (Abstract.)

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 2-8, 12, 13, 20-23, 32, 27, 28, 36, 39, 40, 42, 43, 45, 48 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ballantyne et al., in view of Kashiwagi et al. (6,396,598.)

Claim 2, 20, 32, 39, 48: Ballantyne discloses the method defined in claim 1, further comprising:

- a. erasing the first sheet (13:11-27); and

- b. adding one or more other media objects to the first collection of media objects to create the second collection of media objects (updating: 13:11-27);

However, Ballantyne does not explicitly disclose:

- c. scanning a first identifier on the sheet; and
- d. marking the first sheet with a second identifier to identify the second collection and the second graphical content.

Kashiwagi discloses a method for using an electronic memo apparatus to handle electronic documents, comprising:

- a. scanning a first identifier on the sheet (11:19-44); and
- b. marking the first sheet with a second identifier to identify the second collection and the second graphical content (17:33-42.)

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the scanning of an identifier with marking of a second identifier upon creation of a second collection, as taught by Kashiwagi to the disclosure of Ballantyne. One would have been motivated to scan an identifier on the sheet, and then mark it with a second identifier to identify the second collection so as to determine document information for editing and display purposes (11:39.)

Claim 3: Ballantyne and Kashiwagi disclose the method defined in claim 2. Ballantyne further discloses wherein the media objects are scanned pages (6: 27-31.)

Claim 4: Ballantyne and Kashiwagi disclose the method defined in claim 2. Ballantyne further discloses wherein the media objects are electronic documents or images from a digital memory card (electronic medical records: Abstract; 10:50.)

Claim 5: Ballantyne and Kashiwagi disclose the method defined in claim 2. Ballantyne further discloses wherein marking the first sheet comprises identifying open areas on the sheet based on scanned information and determining where to mark the sheet based on the open areas ("data entry forms": 10:15.)

Claim 6, 22, 40, 43, 45: Ballantyne and Kashiwagi disclose the method defined in claim 2. Kashiwagi further discloses further comprising: accessing the first collection of media objects using the first identifier (12:15-24); and scanning the one or more pages of the one or more other media objects (14:53-64.)

Claim 7, 21, 36: Ballantyne and Kashiwagi disclose the method defined in claim 2. Ballantyne further discloses wherein the first identifier and the second identifier are identical (document identifier: 11:60-67; Fig. 7.)

Claim 8, 23: Ballantyne and Kashiwagi disclose the method defined in claim 2. Ballantyne further discloses wherein re-marking the first sheet comprises identifying open areas on the sheet based on scanned information and determining where to mark the sheet based on the open areas ("data entry forms": 10:15.)

Claim 12, 27: Ballantyne discloses the method defined in claim 1. Ballantyne does not disclose wherein

- a. re-marking the first sheet only occurs in a first mode of operation, and further comprising
- b. marking a second sheet with the second graphical content in a second mode of operation, where the second mode is different than the first mode of operation.

Kashiwagi discloses a method for using an electronic memo apparatus to handle electronic documents wherein

- a. re-marking the first sheet only occurs in a first mode of operation, and further comprising
- b. marking a second sheet with the second graphical content in a second mode of operation, where the second mode is different than the first mode of operation
(Fig. 14: 222-230.)

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the first and second modes of marking first and second sheets, as taught by Kashiwagi to the disclosure of Ballantyne. One would have been motivated to first and second modes of marking first and second sheets so as to encompass numerous common media formats that may be incorporated on the sheets (11:39.)

Claim 13, 28: Ballantyne and Kashiwagi disclose the method defined in claim 12.

Ballantyne further discloses wherein marking the second sheet with the second graphical content occurs while erasing the first sheet (updating: 13:11-27.)

Claim 42: Ballantyne and Kashiwagi disclose the method defined in claim 39.

Kashiwagi further discloses further comprising a scanned sheet feeder coupled to the scanner to send the sheet to the erasing unit if the sheet is re-writable (Fig. 1: 62.)

5. Claims 11, 26, and 35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ballantyne et al., in view of Cardullo et al. (3,713,148.)

Claim 11, 26, 35: Ballantyne discloses the method defined in claim 9. However, Ballantyne does not disclose wherein the first identifier comprises a radio frequency identifier (RFID). However, Official notice is taken that RFID technology is old and well known in the arts (for example, as taught by Cardullo, 3,713,148,) and therefore would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use RFID as identifiers. One would have been motivated to use RFID tags as they require no internal power, are relatively small in size and are portable (2:30-64.)

6. Claims 16-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ballantyne et al., in view of Ludtke et al. (6,260,063.)

Claim 16: Ballantyne discloses the method defined in claim 1. Ballantyne does not further explicitly disclose marking the sheet with a machine-readable indicator that indicates that the sheet is not to be erased. However, Official Notice is taken that it is old and well known in the computing arts to have a write-protection mechanism for electronic documents, such as disclosed in Ludtke (7:34-64.) Therefore it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include a write-protection mechanism as taught in Ludtke to the disclosure of Ballantyne. One would have been motivated to combine the teaching of Ludtke to that of Ballantyne so as to provide a form of protection against inadvertent deletion / erasure of important documents.

Claim 17: Ballantyne and Ludtke disclose the method defined in claim 16. Ludtke further discloses wherein the indicator is erasable (i.e. flag can be set / removed; 7:34-64.)

Claim 18: Ballantyne and Ludtke disclose the method defined in claim 16. Ludtke further discloses wherein the indicator is one of a predetermined shape, pattern, or color (7:34-64.)

Claim 51 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ballantyne et al., in view of Sellen et al. (2002/0052888.)

Claim 51: Ballantyne discloses the method defined in claim 50. However, Ballantyne does not explicitly disclose wherein the updated information comprises a timestamp. Sellen teaches a method for an electronic record storage wherein updated information comprises a timestamp (Abstract.) Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to update the timestamp upon a updating of the sheet. One would have been motivated to update the timestamp of the sheet to know whether the sheet is up-to-date and accurate (0004.)

Response to Arguments

7. Applicant's arguments filed 10/17/2007 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.
8. Applicant's argument with respect to claims 1, and 50, including corresponding dependant claims, that Ballantyne teaches using a touch panel or a PDA in contrast to the cover "sheets," has been fully considered but is not persuasive. Paragraph 26 of Applicant's specification explicitly defines the terms "paper," "paper medium," or "sheet" as used in this application to intend to refer to any tangible medium on which information can be formed whether by a printing process, written, drawn, imprinted, embossed, etc. The Applicant further explicitly defines the term "printing" as intended to encompass all manner of forming images on an image-bearing medium whether by optical, mechanical, thermal, or electrical methods, or combination thereof. Using such a broad definition of the term "sheet", the difference as to a PDA or a touch panel is lost.

9. Applicant's argument with respect to claim 46, that Sellen discloses merely replacing as in contrast to erasing of the scanned portion of the document at the location of the portion, and scanning the erased portion of the document to obtain second scanned data, has been fully considered but is not persuasive. Sellen discloses in paragraph 36, revising the stored version (document) and as such incorporates erasure.

Applicant's argument with respect to claim 47 has been fully considered but is not persuasive for the similar line of reasoning as above with respect to claim 1.

Applicant's argument with respect to claims 2-8, 12, 13, 20-23, 27, 28, 32, 36, 39, 40, 42, 43, 45 and 48, has been fully considered but is not persuasive for the similar line of reasoning as above with respect to claim 1.

Applicant's argument with respect to claims 11, 26 and 35, has been fully considered but is not persuasive for the similar line of reasoning as above with respect to claim 1.

Applicant's argument with respect to claim 51, has been fully considered but is not persuasive for the similar line of reasoning as above with respect to claim 46.

Conclusion

10. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within

TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Andrew Belousov whose telephone number is (571) 270-1695. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri (alternate Fri off) EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David A. Wiley can be reached on (571) 272-3923. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-3800.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Application/Control Number: 10/816,251

Page 14

Art Unit: 2174

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January 22, 2007

/David A Wiley/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2174